



St George's congregation briefing on extra-parochial giving – October 2015

Many of you will be aware that until a few years ago, St George's provided financial support over a number of years to the Anglican Church in Papua New Guinea. We have also been strong supporters of the Trinity College Theological School, here in Melbourne. In recent years we have wound back our extra-parochial giving as we have undertaken some large internal projects, notably our re-roofing and painting projects. The Parish Council considers that it important that we renew our giving program, especially given our relatively strong financial position, which is underpinned by significant capital reserves.

At its September meeting, the Parish Council approved donating \$25,000 for the 2014-15 Church year to four institutions:

\$10,000 to the Trinity College Theological School

\$5,000 to the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project

\$5,000 to the Saint Andrew's Theological Seminary in the Philippines through the ABM

\$5,000 to the Wontulp-Bi-Buya College in Cairns, also through the ABM.

A Planning Sub-Committee undertook limited due diligence into each institution before making its recommendations to the Parish Council. Following the Parish Council's approval, donations were paid by 30 September – the end of the 2014-15 Church year. We expect to be granted assessment relief by the Diocese for each of our donations except for the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project, as it doesn't have an Anglican connection. The Parish Council also agreed in-principle to provide further donations to the same four institutions in 2015-16 and 2016-17, subject to the Parish Council continuing to be satisfied of the merits of each institution and of St George's financial capacity to make the donations.

Three of the four institutions that we are supporting have a strong education focus:

- Trinity College Theological School will be well known to many of you and was chosen to support the training and development of future clergy for parishes like our own – please speak to the Vicar if you would like more information about the School
- Saint Andrews Theological Seminary in the Philippines was chosen to support clergy training and development for a vibrant, growing Episcopal / Anglican church of a close international neighbour, where a relatively small amount of money can go a long way – please speak to Simon Dickie if you would like more information about the Seminary
- Wontulp-Bi-Buya College in Cairns was chosen because it exists principally to support the training and development of future Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander church and community leaders – please speak to Judy Wright if you would like more information about the College.
- The fourth institution, the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project, was chosen to support the approximately 120 volunteers who provide many different services to asylum seekers to aid their integration into Australian society. This institution receives no Government funding and relies on its own resources and particularly donation from friends and benefactors. Please speak to Charles Tegner if you would like more information about the project.

We will provide further information about each of these institutions, and how our donations will be applied, in an up-coming Parish newsletter.

We will also provide the congregation with updates over the coming year about how our donations are being applied and we hope to have some representatives come to speak to us about their work.

From the Vicar and the Church Wardens.

Mark your diary:

*** Food Collection**
Sunday October 25th

*** Spiritual Café**
Tuesday October 27th

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